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POETRY: *A Magazine of Verse*

TIDEWATER

HARBOR WATER

All through the night I can hear the sound of dancers,
Soft-padding hoofs, and the lipping of the water,
The water, the water patting juba . . .

Juba! Juba!
Juba lef' an' juba right,
Juba dance on a moonshine night—
Juba!

Knobbly palmetto posts,
Matted trunks of sea-gods,
Hairier than monkeys, rise from the water—
The pulpy, the oily-burnished water.

Soft rocking feet of the dancers sway about them,
Long-swelling ripples with their crisp inhibitions,
Filed golden streaks like the pointed feet of dancers,
Pull of the tide, and the netted flopping motion
Of the water, the music-woven, oily-damasked water,
Water patting juba. . . .

Juba! Juba!
Juba lef' an' juba right,
Juba dance on a moonshine night—
Juba!